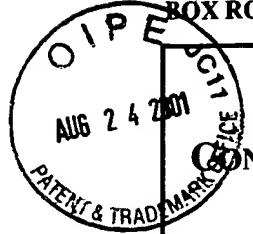


Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
BOX RCE



**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
Filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

PTO/SB/30
U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office
PATENT

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AUG 30 2001
Technology Center 2600

Application Number	08/858,245
Filing Date	May 19, 1997
First Named Inventor	Roberto Padovani
Group Art Unit	2682
Examiner Name	N. Vo
Attorney Docket Number	QCPA418B

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which estimated RCE practice.

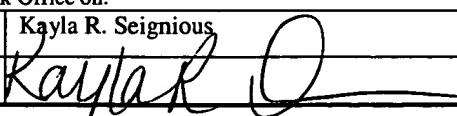
1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
 - a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on July 31, 2001.
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
 - iii. Other
 - b. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other
2. Miscellaneous
 - a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of months. (*Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(l) required*)
 - b. Other
3. Fees *The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 which the RCE is filed.*
 - a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 17-0026
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) in the amount of \$710.00
 - ii. Request for Extension of time (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.117) in the amount of
 - iii. Other
 - b. Check in the amount of \$ enclosed
 - c. Payment by credit card (*Form PTO-2038 enclosed*)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Date	August 22, 2001	Signature	 Albert J. Hamois, Jr., Reg. No. 46,123 (858) 651-4368
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print Type)	Kayla R. Seignious
Signature	
Date	8/22/01

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5775 Morehouse Drive
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Customer No. 23696

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